the Fountain of Life Fellowship Monthly Newsletter

April 2010

Council Members

Elders:
Matt Ford
Scott Clair
Ed Mirth
Deacons:
Irmgard Bishop
Jerry Schoenenberger
Don Woodhead
Vince Cabral
Rachel Stewart

Grounded in the Gospel,
we Gather to Grow in the Gospel
and Scatter to Spread the Gospel
for the Glory of God.

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Pastor's Note by Matt Ford

***Budget*, to Psalm 66**

No one likes to watch paint dry, but we do like painted walls. Often life is made up of the tedious. It can be like that with budgets. It's that time of year again, when our treasurer and deacons serve us faithfully by pouring over the present budget and composing the future one. In our last Council meeting it was decided that a letter to you, our faithful at FOLF, would be helpful for remembering where we've been, where we are going, and what we need to go from here budget-wise. And like putting lyrics to music (though I'm not very good at that), I'm going to put this letter to parts of Psalm 66. It will help keep our focus where we need it: God and what He has done.

God is awesome, and it is all for Him!

1 Shout for joy to God, all the earth;
2 sing the glory of his name;
give to him glorious praise!
3 Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!
So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you.
5 Come and see what God has done:
he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.

6 *He turned the sea into dry land;*
they passed through the river on foot.
There did we rejoice in him,
7 *who rules by his might forever,*
whose eyes keep watch on the nations—
let not the rebellious exalt themselves.

God is glorious, isn't He! His deeds are awesome! The most awesome of His deeds is the ultimate exodus: the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ through which God's enemies are transformed into His precious children. Consider the works of God on your behalf!

We believe that the glory of Jesus is most powerfully manifested through the faithful local church. The important truth is that a budget serves the local church and its mission. Church budgets are for the glory of Jesus Christ and the benefit of His people. That knowledge keeps us grounded and involved. Our budget is worth our attention and our generosity.

God has rescued us!

8 *Bless our God, O peoples;*
let the sound of his praise be heard,
9 *who has kept our soul among the living*
and has not let our feet slip.
10 *For you, O God, have tested us;*
you have tried us as silver is tried.
11 *You brought us into the net;*
you laid a crushing burden on our backs;
12 *you let men ride over our heads;*
we went through fire and through water;
yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.

Those of you who are newer with us need to know what the rest of remember well. It was just last October that a different letter went out, saying basically that if things didn't dramatically change financially the church was looking at a year and ½ until closing.

(Very brief summary: the church closed some time ago, sold a parsonage, was rebuilding using the money from the parsonage, and the money was running out.)

What did we do in response? Mostly, we prayed and prayed hard. We also gave pledges as a congregation as an expression of our commitment together. What's most exciting is what God did.

The pledges came back higher than ever. You really stepped up. And though it wasn't quite enough, there was more. An anonymous donor gave us $30,000! Have you ever heard of such a thing? That's what God has done for us.

God's blessings have continued. Fabulously, without yet touching the $30,000, we have been financially in the black for six months straight! God is providing.

Let's keep going!

13 *I will come into your house with burnt offerings;*
I will perform my vows to you,
14 *that which my lips uttered*
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.
15 *I will offer to you burnt offerings of fattened animals,*
with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;
I will make an offering of bulls and goats.

Things remain very tight. We're not out of the woods. But God is doing tons of great things for His glory through the ministry of this church. From where will the resources for the ministry come? Well, they will come from God through you. The resources of the local church come from the local church. God made it that way. Giving is a way to respond to God and what He has done for us with praise and obedience. He has given us everything, and it is a joy to steward His resources for His glory.

What we need from you...

So we're asking you again, our dear and faithful people, to prayerfully consider what God might have you pledge per month, from June 2010 to May 2011. Your pledges enable us to responsibly plan for the year and it's coming needs and opportunities. By giving joyfully to your local church, you join tangibly, practically, and powerfully in what God is doing through this church.

You will receive a pledge card soon. We're asking that you return it by Sunday, May 2nd. The collected pledges will help us finalize the budget which will be made available in May and voted on in the congregational meeting June 13th.

20 *Blessed be God because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me!*

Pastor Matt

Haven't joined a Life Together Group (LTG)? It's not too late!
We have three groups that meet in homes during the week.
Speak to or e-mail Pastor Matt (matt@folfcrc.com)
and get signed up!

Shepherd's Corner

contributed by Matt Ford

Shepherd's Corner

The elders met Saturday morning, April 2nd, from 7.30-11.30 a.m. Time was spent in theological growth and discussion as well as focus on service opportunities for the church, LTG updates, and member needs.

Of Note:

Matt and Scott's LEAD team (including Joel Van Soulen and Maged Dakdouk) enjoyed attending "Christless Christianity", a conference hosted by Ligonier Ministries (R. C. Sproul, if you are familiar with him).

Matt will be heading to Louisville, Ky with Vincent Cabral next week from Monday to Thursday in order to attend the conference, "Together For the Gospel". Matt's good friend and fellow pastor Charles Kuthe will be joining them from Vermont.

Scott Clair will be facilitating the Ford's LTG in Matt's absence. Pray for and encourage him!

Daughters of the King

Annual Women's Retreat- April 23rd-25th

Join us in Lake Arrowhead for a weekend of fellowship, relaxing, and basking in the theme of the weekend: "An Invitation to Abide in Grace".

Space is limited so reserve your spot! Sign-ups are in the foyer or speak to Marcia Ford.

Ignition Update

contributed by Rachel Stewart

Over the last month, the youth group wrapped up its study in the book of James and began focusing on the last months of Christ's life-- ultimately His death and resurrection. Although humbling to see that it was our wretched sin that required Jesus to die, we were overjoyed with the good news of Christ rising again and the reality that we as believers will spend eternity with Him.

We are looking forward to the conclusion of yet another school year and the start of what is looking to be the best summer yet!

Ignition's Purpose:

We exist to glorify God by having and spreading a passion for the **supremacy of God** in all things for the joy of all peoples through Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit.

Ignition's Mission:

To live a lifestyle of worship by **Growing** in Christ, **Building** meaningful relationships with other believers, **Serving** those who are in need, and **Reaching** those who do not know Christ within our community.

Summer Trip Sign-Ups APRIL 14th!

The first day to sign up for the Ignition Summer Trip is Wednesday, the 14th. We'll be spending a week (July 12-18) jet-skiing, wakeboarding, boating and whale watching. The cost of this trip is **$230** and is guaranteed to be a blast!

2:42 Update

contributed by Scott Clair

This last month we continued our study through the book of John and focused most of our attention on Jesus' Triumphal Entry. As we focused on His entry we found in notable that "His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him." (John 12:16) We often lose site of what and how God is moving in our everyday life. We have our own desires and our own agendas but don't always understand God's interaction and sovereign plan in our lives and the lives around us. Focusing on the triumphal entry we were reminded that God indeed is sovereign. That His plan is best and like the Apostle Paul , "…we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."
Acts 2:42 (ESV)

Out of the Salt Shaker

Contributed by Julia Bailey

By their fruits you shall know them.

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." (Matt 5:13-16)

And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. (Acts 2: 46-47)

NY TIMES, March 24, 2010—WASHINGTON — Democratic lawmakers have received death threats and been the victims of vandalism because of their votes in favor of the health care bill, lawmakers and law enforcement officials said Wednesday

The Detriot News, March 28, 2010—Seven arrested in FBI raids linked to Christian militia group….

"All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing" (attributed to Edmund Burke, although unlikely the words were original with him).

Last Sunday's sermon on Jesus' love rang incongruously in my ears as I read and listened to various news reports this week.

Adding to the noise in my head were two books I've read recently. The first: unChristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks About Christianity...And Why it Matters by David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons, provides commentary on a recent Barna Group survey that finds that half of those outside the church and many young people in the church view Christians as judgmental, political and gay-hating, among other things.

The second book, *The Eliminationists: How Hate Talk Radicalized the American Right,* by David Neiwert, describes the malignant influence of right-wing hate talk on the American conservative movement. Niewert describes "eliminationism" as "a politics and culture that shuns dialogue and the democratic exchange of ideas in favor of the pursuit of outright elimination of the opposing side, either through suppression, exile and ejection, or extermination." Over the last thirty years, such views have moved from the sidelines of quiet, typically secret meetings, to be a

staple of every-day broadcasts by a number of personalities. A central theme of many of these people is that they speak for America's "true" Christians.

All of which suggests that somewhere along the road the church of Jesus has lost her way.

I love my country. I prize the principles on which she was founded, including those of representative government and the exchange and debate of ideas.

I love the church universal: the bride of Christ. And I love the calling to which she is called to be salt, and light, and to bring the message of reconciliation to a hurting world.

It's easy to dismiss the actions of a fundamentalist Christian group—who planned to assassinate a policeman so they could kill more law enforcement officials as they attended his funeral—as a bunch of nut cases. And it's easy to quietly sympathize with those who make threats against lawmakers who voted in ways with which we disagree. But I submit that out silence in the face of these actions is bad for both our nation and the church of Jesus.

When we remain silent in the face of such actions, it suggests to those who take these actions that they speak for us. Bullies bully because there are people surrounding them who, rather than stop them, implicitly or explicitly egg them on. Hitler was able to exterminate 6 million Jews in one of the most Christian countries in Europe, not because people thought that was right, but because their own anti-semitic views, while less virile, caused them to remain silent. My daughter Eleanor has seen first-hand the impact those events continue to have on the German people nearly 70 years later.

Jesus never called us to take the law into our own hands; rather, he had Peter sheath his sword.

When we repeat misinformation without investigating the truth, we engage in a scurrilous form of gossip, which the apostle James warned against.

When we stop arguing ideas and instead launch attacks on people and their motives, we engage in tactics that are not worthy of our calling. The apostle Paul witnessed to many government leaders when he was unfairly in chains, but he was always respectful in his presentations. We cannot expect to be treated respectfully and given a fair hearing if we fail to do the very things we expect to be done to us.

As Paul says in Eph 4:20, "this is not the way you learned Christ!" May we, rather, be imitators of our Lord, proclaiming truth and love.

"Let no corrupting talk come out of [our] mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." (Eph 4:29-32)

Prayer Guide for April

April 11-17: Romans 1.1-17; Pray our Mission will get in our blood here at Fountain of Life. Pray that it will be believed and lived, bearing fruit for the glory of God. Pray that we will be grounded in the Gospel, gather to grow in the Gospel, and scatter to spread the Gospel for the glory of God.

April 18-24: Luke 16.1-13; Pray that we will love Jesus and use money, not the other way around. Pray that we will be motivated by the Spirit to generously bless our local church for the sake of the Gospel.

April 25-May 1: Hebrews 12.3-17; Pray that we will understand and appreciate God's discipline in our lives. Pray that God would bless and enable righteous discipline in the church and in the home. And pray for the women's retreat, that the dear ladies of our church would enjoy deep fellowship in the grace of God.

Mark Your Calendars!

- April 14th: Youth Group Summer Sign-Ups
- April 23-25: Daughters of the King Retreat

Birthdays

4.2	Robert Cuevas
4.4	Ronell Myburgh
4.6	Todd Szilagyi
4.9	Raymond Cabral
4.13	Isaiah Cabral
4.22	Kortney Powers

Anniversaries

4.7	Jannie & Ronell Myburgh
4.10	Craig & Denise Powers

Care for our Shut-Ins

Below is a list of friends & family of FOLF that would appreciate a call, a card, a visit, and prayer.

Please contact Rachel (Rachel@folfcrc.com) for phone numbers and addresses of those we care for.

Joe Bakkelo has moved back into his home in Victorville. He would appreciate calls and cards.

Hetty De Jonge is still recovering. We give thanks to God for healing! Hetty still loves to have visitors and cards, and enjoys fresh flowers from your garden.

Russ Hanff is in an assisted living home in Whittier. Russ suffers from Alzheimer's; while forgetful, he really enjoys visits and cards (he has no phone). He LOVES to talk about the Angels, and his years of coaching Little League and softball. He recently was able to take a trip to Alaska.

Martin and June Verhoeven live at the Artesia Christian Home in Artesia. June cannot walk due to a stroke that she suffered a few months ago. Martin has trouble hearing but still likes to talk about fishing. They would love to receive cards and visits. They also enjoy home-cooked food and fresh fruit. T

Brian McGuire is a former member of our church. He lives in Fullerton with his son, Kyle. Brian suffers from advanced effects of diabetes. He would love a call or a card from FOLF friends.

Budget Update - April

contributed by Anne Buteyn

Inflow:

General Fund (offerings, rent): $16,620.00
Special offering: Benevolence - $398.00

Outflow:

General Fund: $13,981.41
Ministry Shares: $1,272.40

Total: $15,253.81

Ministry Schedule

	April 11th	April 18th	April 25th	May 2nd
Nursery	Irmgard, Gayle and Lizzy	Heather L., Natasha and Michael	Tracey, Mira, and Allana	Laura, Carolyn, and Samantha
Children's Worship	Marcia Veronica	Marcia Irmgard	Marcia Judy	Wesley Jacky
Hospitality	John and Irene			Irmgard and Veronica
Greeters	Jerry and Vera			Jacky and Joel
Congregational Prayer	Todd	Sally	Heather L.	Vera
Scripture Reading	Heather L.	Ed	Lynn W.	Cinti
Communion Elements	Jerry (May)			
Sanctuary Care	Rachel	Cinti	Mira	Scott